(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) to what extent it will help the banks to create an in-house market and attract the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL): (a) to (c) Banks have now been permitted to undertake para banking services, such as, equipment leasing, housing finance, factoring, mutual fund business and merchant banking etc. These specialised services are to be handled either departmentally or through subsidiaries. it is expected that the diversification will help the banks to provide efficient services and improve their financial performance.

Heroin Seized at IGIA

196. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently an old woman was nabbed by the Customs Officers at the Indira Gandhi International Airport at Delhi while carrying in her possession high grade heroin of 11 kilogram worth Rs. 12 crores;

(b) if so, the steps taken to stregthen vigil at the airport;

(c) whether Government contemplate rewarding the officials involved in the seizure; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Yes Sir, Customs Officer at I.G.I. Airport New Delhi on 23/24.9.95 recovered 10.976 kgs. of heroin from Ms. RHIZ GENRRERO DOLOREN, a Spanish National who was arrested and remanded to judicial Custody.

(b) Anti Smuggling agencies under Ministry of Finance are alert to detect and prevent smuggling including attempt to smuggle narcotics from International airports in the country. Narcotics Intelligence Cell for employing sophisticated techniques like Passenger profiling for detection of drug traffickers at Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi has been formed. Close coordination is being maintained amongst all agencies concerned for detection and prevention of smuggling.

(c) and (d) Yes, the officers are being suitably rewarded.

Independent Regulatory Body for Insurance Sector

197. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the PHD chamber of Commerce and Industry has urged creation of an independent regulatory body for insurance sector on the lines of SEBI;

(b) if so, whether several foreign insurance companies are eagerly awaiting their entrance in the country; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government on such views expressed by PHDCCI in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL): (a) to (c) The Finance Minister in his Budget Speech of 1995-96 had announced the intention of the Government to set up an Insurance Regulatory Authority in the country as a first step towards reforms in the insurance sector. The PHD Chambers of Commerce & Industry in their meeting held on 8th November, 1995 welcomed the proposal. From time to time, foreign

insurance companies evinced interest in entering the insurance market if and when it is opened up for the private sector operations.

Strike by Bank Employees

198. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 7,00,000 employees of the public and private sector banks had struck work in response to a two-day strike called on 26th and 27th September, 1995 to press their demand for revision of wages;

(b) whether this was the second strike by the bank employees in less than a month;

(c) if so, the estimated loss suffered as result thereof; and

(d) the efforts made by Government to settle the dispute of the bank employees amicably so that the economy of the country does not suffer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL): (a) A large number of employees in the banking industry struck work on 26th and 27th Sept., 1995 in support of their contention that officers in the banking industry had received a better deal.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Having regard to the importance of the banking sector and the significant role that it plays in different sectors of the economy, the economy suffered considerably on account of the 2 day strike. It is, however, not possible to quantify the exact amount of loss suffered by the economy on account of the strike. According to the Indian Banks' Association, the banking industry suffered a loss of around 5 million man-hours on each day of the strike.

(d) Conciliation proceedings were undertaken by the concerned authorities including Chief Labour Commissioner (Central). Several meetings at different levels have also been held with the leaders of the concerned trade unions.

देश के ताप बिजली घर

199. **श्री सोमपाल** : क्या विद्युत मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) देश में कुल कितने ताप बिजलीघर हैं और प्रत्येक की विद्युत उत्पादन क्षमता कितनी है;

(ख) इन ताप बिजली घरों द्वारा गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान अपनी विद्युत उत्पादन क्षमता का कितना-कितना प्रतिशत उपयोग किया गया; और

(ग) सरकार ने इन बिजलीघरों में उत्पादन क्षमता के बेहतर उपयोग के लिए क्या उपाय किए हैं तथा उनके क्या परिणाम निकले हैं?

विद्युत मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती उर्मिलाबेन) **चिमनभाई पटेल**): (क) और (ख) इस समय देश में 100 ताप विद्युत केन्द्र हैं जिनमें से 72 कोयला आधारित हैं। इन केन्द्रों में से प्रत्येक की क्षमता और कोयला आधारित केन्द्रों के सम्बन्ध में पिछले 3 वर्षों के दौरान संयंत्र भार अनुपात की दृष्टि से % क्षमता समुपयोजना का ब्यौरा विवरण में दिया गया है (नीचे देखिए) गैस / ऑयल आधारित केन्द्र अनिवार्यतः व्यस्ततम भार परिचालन के लिए हैं और सामान्यतया उनका पीएलएफ परिकल्पित नहीं किया जाता है।

(ग) अधिष्ठापित क्षमता का इष्टतम समुपयोजन के लिए सरकार द्वारा किए गए विभिन्न उपायों में, पुरानी यूनिटों के नवीकरण एवं आधुनिकीकरण का कार्यक्रम, संयंत्रों के बेहतर प्रचालन और अनुरक्षण में विद्युत इंजीनियर कार्मिकों को प्रशिक्षण देना, कोयला, रेलवे और पैट्रोलियम तथा प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालयों के साथ सम्पर्क रखना ताकि अपेक्षित मात्रा और गुणवत्ता के ईंधन की आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित की जा सके और पारेषण तथा वितरण प्रणालियों को मजबूत करना इत्यादि शामिल हैं। इसके परिणामस्वरूप, वर्ष 1994-95 के दौरान अखिल भारतीय औसत संयंत्र भार अनुपात 60% है।